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Sri K. P. GOPALAN :—" The conductors and drivers are put to much difficulty in getting the necessary training to obtain these certificates. In some places the workers have to bear the expense of this training themselves. So, as far as the rural parts are concerned, will the Hon. Minister instruct the medical officers in charge of Government hospitals to arrange for giving this training to these conductors and drivers without charging any fees? "

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Out of 792 drivers 763 have passed and obtained certificates. Out of 774 conductors 685 have obtained certificates. Adequate facilities are given to them to get these certificates."

Sri A. GOVINDASAMI NAYAGAR :—" ஏற்கெனவே இது சம்பந்தமாக முன்பு கேட்ட கேள்விக்கு அந்த முதற்சிகிச்சை பெட்டி First-Aid Box மருந்து இல்லாமல் காலியாக இருப்பதாக ஏற்கெனவே இருந்த மந்திரி அவர்கள் சொன்னார்கள். இப்பொழுதாவது அந்த முதற்சிகிச்சை பெட்டிகளில் மருந்துகள் வைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கின்றனவா என்று கேட்கிறேன்."

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN :—" The Government will see that first aid boxes are provided in such of those buses where they are not available."

Sri K. VINAYAKAM :—" In the absence of any medicine in the empty boxes that are fitted in the Government Transport buses in Madras City, what will be the usefu or utilitarian purpose served by insisting upon the conductors and drivers to pass this test within a prescribed period, when the Government have not done their duty properly? "

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN :—" I do not know whether the hon. Member inspected all the buses. I do not know how he could make a general statement with regard to this matter. I give the House this assurance that before 1st July 1954 every bus will be provided with the necessary first aid box."

Sri K. VINAYAKAM :—" By way of personal explanation, I want to submit that I am one of those few Members of this House who use this bus as their means of conveyance. I have never travelled in a car as the Hon. Minister does. I have inspected almost all the buses in the City of Madras and not one bus has got anything connected with the first aid facility except the box and the name on it."

X-ray plants in Government hospitals.

* 648 *Q.*—Sri A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of X-ray plants installed in the Government hospitals of the State; and

(*b*) the minimum cost of an X-ray plant?

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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) 54, Sir.

" (b) The cost of a small portable X-ray apparatus is about Rs. 6,000."

X-ray units in Government hospitals.

* 649 *Q.*—SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state how many X-ray units exist in the Madras State Government hospitals at present?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" 54, Sir."

SRI A. RATNAM :—" May I know from the Hon. the Minister for Health the number of X-ray plants installed in the Government hospitals in the City of Madras and the headquarters hospitals in the districts? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" About 17 apparatuses are in mufassal places and the rest are in Madras City."

SRI S. JAYARAMA REDDIAR :—" May I know what the difference between an X-ray plant and X-ray unit is? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" There is no difference, Sir. We have got X-ray diagnostic units and X-ray therapeutic units."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" In view of the indispensable character of X-ray plants on account of their diagnostic and therapeutic values in treatment, may I request the Hon. Minister to see that rural hospitals and at least the taluk headquarters hospitals are fitted with these plants? Otherwise, the patients from the rural areas are put to great difficulty in coming over to the towns and sometimes to the district headquarters. I may also suggest that X-ray plants fitted in the towns by private doctors are very costly and beyond the means of the ordinary patients."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" We have got X-ray diagnostic plants in all district headquarters hospitals and in a few taluk headquarters hospitals. It will take a long time for us to set up these plants in rural hospitals. They are very costly and we have not got the men necessary to handle these sets."

SRI M. PALANIYANDI :—" Even after allowing for depreciation on account of the plant having been used for the past three years, Rs. 5 are charged for every X-ray photo. Will the Government come forward to reduce the fees charged in the headquarters hospitals for this purpose? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" In the City we have got much bigger plants and it does cost a good amount for buying films."